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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 21 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 18 January 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan regarding the signing, on 15 January 1997, of the agreement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian authorities on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the town of Hebron (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Kazakstan to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 18 January 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan

Kazakstan welcomed the news of the signing, on 15 January 1997, of the greement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian authorities on he withdrawal of Israeli troops from the town of Hebron, which represents a ajor breakthrough in the implementation of the agreements concluded earlier etween the parties.

This step is an important contribution to the continuation of the peace rocess and will help create conditions conducive to beginning the final stage f the Palestinian-Israeli talks and a definitive settlement of the Middle East roblem.

Kazakstan supports the goodwill and political realism of the participants n the peace process and expresses its hope for the speedy achievement of a omprehensive and just peace in the region, based on a balance of interests and he granting of the legitimate rights of all peoples living in the region, ncluding the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent State.